(d) the areas in Punjab covered by the scheme since its introduction ; and

(e) what is the total assistance provided to Punjab in this regard during 1987-92 ;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (Km. SELJA) : (a) to (e) Under the the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" started in 1987-88, financial assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories and voluntary agencies. While voluntary agencies are assisted for conduct of experimental and innovative programmes ; the States/Union Territories are provided financial assistance for science equipments for Labs in secondary/senior secondary schools, science books in such schools, science kits for upper primary schools and certain costs of training the teachers as and when suitable proposals formulated in accordance with the norms of the scheme are received from them.

During 1987-88 to 1992-93, the Government of Punjab was sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10.91 crores for the following purposes :

—Provision of science kits to 2557 upper primary schools ;

—Upgradation and strengthening of science laboratories in 2452 secondary/senior secondary schools;

—Supply of books on science related subjects for upgradation of Libraries in 2682 secondary/ senior secondary schools ;

—Setting up of 12 District Resource Centres ; and

—Organisation of training programmes for science and mathematics teachers.

All the schools located in ten Districts namely, Bhatinda, Patiala., Ropar,Sangrur, Faridkot, Hoshiarpur Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar and Ferozepur have been covered during 1987-88 to 1992-93. Kapurthala and Gurudaspur Districts have also been covered partially.

Achievement of the targets of Operation Blackboard

742. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the targets both physical and financial set under 'Operation Blackboard' ;

(b) the achievements made against these targets ;

(c) What are the reasons for shortfall in fund utilisation ; and

(d) the steps taken to accelerate the programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMET (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (Km. SELJA) : (a) The target of the scheme was to cover 5.37 lakh primary schools for distribution of Teaching Learning Equipment, convert 1.52 lakh single teacher schools into double teacher schools and to construct 2.63 lakh deficient class rooms. An amount of Rs. 742.24 crores was estimated as the requirement of Central Assistance.

(b) Till March 1993, 4.69 lakh schools have been covered,1.31 lakh posts of additional teachers have been sanctioned and 1.17 lakh deficient class rooms have been constructed Rs. 853.95 Crores have been released under the scheme.

(c) Most of the funds have been utilised. Since the programme involves various procedures for purchases, recruitment there is inevitably a time-lag in utilisation of funds.

(d) The steps taken to accelerate the programme include constant monitoring, persuading State Govts. to complete the entire backlog during the current year and release of central matching share for construction of deficient class rooms under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana by Ministry of Rural Development.

Integrated Education for disabled children in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh

743. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Education for the disabled children in 1987 ;

(b) if so, what are the major changes made in the scheme ;

(c) whether Government have been providing Central assistance to the States under the above scheme ;

(d) if so, what is the total financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh and Punjab during the last three years under this scheme ; and

(e) the number of children benefited under this scheme in Punjab ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The major changes made in the scheme as revised in 1987 are as follows :

—The Education Department in the States/UTs would be the implementing agency ;

—Autonomous organisations also included as implementing agencies ;

—Strength of administrative cell increased from two to five posts ;

—Ceiling for average cost of assessment of a child increased from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- ;

—The ceiling on parents' income for children being eligible for boarding and lodging charges raised to Rs. 3,000/- p.m. ;

—Special pay of special teachers fixed at Rs. 150/- p.m. in urban areas and Rs. 200/- p.m. in rural areas ;

—Survey of disabled children in the selected areas ;

—Provision for uniform allowance in addition to other facilities ;

—Provision for continuous monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the scheme and submission of quarterly progress reports;

—Provision for assistance to States/Union Territories for purchase/production of instructional material for the disabled children ;

—States/UT Govts. to frame regulations for relaxation of rules relating to admissions, examination procedures, etc.

(c) Yes sir.

(d) The total financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh and